

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of scheduling an event with respect to a hard
2 copy output engine, comprising:
3 detecting a status of a portion of the hard copy output engine from
4 a sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine;
5 composing an electronic message including the detected status;
6 and
7 transmitting the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting includes
2 detecting a toner low or toner out status.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting includes
2 detecting a future need for preventative maintenance.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein composing an electronic
2 message includes composing the electronic message to include information
3 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom
4 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected
5 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,
6 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind
7 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,
8 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,
9 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative
10 maintenance items.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein detecting a status includes
2 detecting a status from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner low,
3 preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of
4 component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for job accounting,
5 external billing dates for job accounting, low or "out of" status for other
6 consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the hard copy output
2 engine is chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines, photocopiers
3 and printers.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the electronic
2 message to a scheduling engine comprises transmitting an electronic message
3 including a consumable order.

1 8. An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable
2 medium having computer readable code embodied therein to cause a processor
3 to:
4 detect a status of a portion of the hard copy output engine from a
5 sensor incorporated in the hard copy output engine;
6 compose an electronic message including the detected status; and
7 transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 9. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect includes computer
3 readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a toner low or toner
4 out status.

1 10. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect includes computer
3 readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a future need for
4 preventative maintenance.

1 11. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to compose an electronic
3 message includes computer readable code configured to cause the processor to
4 compose the electronic message to include information chosen from a list
5 consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom assigned, blind
6 carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected completion date,
7 defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date, follow-up flag,
8 importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind beforehand,
9 reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list, resources, sensitivity,
10 date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status, consumables order list,
11 maintenance items, malfunction and preventative maintenance items.

1 12. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect a status includes
3 computer readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a status
4 chosen from a list of status items consisting of: toner out, toner low,
5 preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or replacement of
6 component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for job accounting,
7 external billing dates for job accounting, low or "out of" status for other
8 consumables or need for other maintenance items.

9 13. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
10 readable code configured to cause a processor to detect comprises computer
11 readable code configured to cause the processor to detect a status of a hard
12 copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of: facsimile machines,
13 photocopiers and printers.

1 14. The article of manufacture of claim 8, wherein the computer
2 readable code configured to cause a processor to transmit comprises computer
3 readable code configured to cause the processor to transmit an electronic
4 message including a consumable order.

1 15. A computer implemented control system for a hard copy
2 output engine, the system comprising:
3 a sensor coupled to a portion of the hard copy output engine, the
4 sensor being configured to provide a status of the portion; and
5 processing circuitry coupled to the sensor and configured to:
6 detect the status of the portion;
7 compose an electronic message including the detected
8 status; and
9 transmit the electronic message to a scheduling engine.

1 16. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processor configured to detect includes a processor configured to
3 detect a toner low or toner out status.

1 17. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processor configured to detect includes a processor configured to
3 detect a future need for preventative maintenance.

1 18. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processor configured to compose an electronic message includes a
3 processor configured to compose the electronic message to include information
4 chosen from a list consisting of: percentage of remaining consumable, to whom
5 assigned, blind carbon copy to, copy to, company addressed to, expected
6 completion date, defer until, due date, duration, event address, expiration date,
7 follow-up flag, importance, owner, priority, return receipt request status, remind

8 beforehand, reminder, reminder override default, required attendee list,
9 resources, sensitivity, date sent, start date, addressee, tracking status,
10 consumables order list, maintenance items, malfunction and preventative
11 maintenance items.

1 19. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processor configured to detect a status includes a processor
3 configured to detect a status chosen from a list of status items consisting of:
4 toner out, toner low, preventative maintenance alerts, including cleaning or
5 replacement of component parts, consumables orders, internal billing dates for
6 job accounting, external billing dates for job accounting, low or "out of" status
7 for other consumables or need for other maintenance items.

1 20. The computer implemented control system of claim 15,
2 wherein the processor configured to detect comprises a processor configured to
3 detect a status of a hard copy output engine chosen from a group consisting of:
4 facsimile machines, photocopiers and printers.